

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 PEKING 01751 071032Z

53

ACTION INR-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 /025 W

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R 070747Z SEP 76

FM USLO PEKING

TO AMEMBASSY TUNIS

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6308

AMEMBASSY RABAT

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1751

E.O.11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, AINP, TS, MO, CH

SUBJECT: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON RIDHA KLIBI

REF: A) TUNIS 6102, B) TUNIS A-157 (10/30/73)

1. USLO HAS HAD CORDIAL BUT NONSUBSTANTIOE CONTACTS WITH TUNISIAN AMBASSADOR KLIBI. HE ATTENDED U.S. BICENTENNIAL FOURTH OF JULY RECEPTION AND AMBASSADOR GATES RECENTLY PAID JOURTESY CALL ON HIM. ALTHOUGH REF B INDICATES THAT LIBI SPEAKS SOME ENGLISH, HE HAS CONSISTENTLY UTILIZED FRENCH INTERPRETER IN CONVERSATIONS WITH US AND WITH OTHER ENGLISH-SPEAKING MISSION. HE SEEMS TO UNDERSTAND ENGLISH FAIRLY WELL, HOWEVER.

2. WE SHARE THE VIEW OF FRIENDLY ENGLISH-SPEAKING MISSIONS HERE THAT KLIBI IS DEBONAIR, POLISHED DIPLOMAT QUITE FAVORABLY DISPOSED TOWARDS THE WEST AND WILLING TO DISCUSS AND ANALYZE SENSITIVE MIDDLE EAST QUESTIONS WITH POLEMICSJI AS AMBASSADOLTO MOROCCO, KLIBI WILL LIKELY BE RECEPTIVE TO CLOSE AND SUBSTANTIVE CONTACTS WITH AMERICAN EMBASSY.

3. KLIBI HAS PROBABLY FOUND HIS PEKING TOUR FRUSTRATING. HE HAS LEFT THE IMPRESSION THAT HE IS NOT MUCH INTERESTED IN THE SUBSTANCE OF CHINESE POLITICS.

4. ACCORDING TO ONE DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUE, KLIBI EMBARRASSED HIMSELF WITH HIS MINISTRY DURING PREPARATIONS  
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PAGE 02 PEKING 01751 071032Z

LAST YEAR FOR A HIGH-LEVEL TUNISIAN DELEGATION VISIT TO THE PRC.

ASKED IF PREMIER CHOU EN-LAI WOULD BE PRESENT AT THE PEKING AIRPORT TO WELCOME THE DELEGATION, KLIBI SUPPOSEDLY REPLIED IN THE NEGATIVE WITHOUT EXPLAINING THAT CHOU'S HEALTH MADE THIS IMPOSSIBTA. TAKING THIS AS A DELIBERATE SLIGHT, THE TUNISIAN SIDE THEN ABRUPTLY CANCELLED PLANS FOR THE VISIT.

5. BOTH AMBASSADOR KLIBI AND HIS WIFE SPEAK FLUENT FRENCH. MME. KLIBI ALSO SPEAKS FAIRLY GOOD ENGLISH.  
DEAN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION, AMBASSADORS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 07 SEP 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ElyME  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** X1  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION INR  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 TUNIS 6102, 76 TUNIS A-157  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ElyME  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 21 MAY 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <21 MAY 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <17 SEP 2004 by ElyME>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON RIDHA KLBI  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PDIP, AINR, TS, MO, CH, (KLBI, RIDHA)  
**To:** TUNIS  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006